

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03391 211356Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /048 W
-----027108 211436Z /47

R 211250Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8307
INFO SECDEF
JCS
CNO
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3391

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MORG, MOPS, KU
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE - THE NEW FORMAT

REF: (A) STATE 142789, (B) KUWAIT 3348, (C) STATE 141742.

1. DURING MEETING WITH MFA ACTING UNDERSECRETARY FAISAL AL-SALEH AL-MUTAWA JUNE 21 I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR HIS LETTER OF JUNE 16 EXTENDING THE GOK'S THANKS FOR COMIDEASTFOR'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORT TO LOCATE KAF HELICOPTER WHICH HAD CRASHED IN GULF. MUTAWA REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S GRATITUDE FOR PROMPT RESPONSE AND USEFUL CONTRIBUTION OF COMIDEASTFOR.

2. LEADING FROM THIS POINT, I INFORMED HIM THAT THE COMIDEASTFOR BASE AGREEMENT WITH BAHRAIN WOULD EXPIRE JUNE 30. I EXPLAINED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS WHAT DEHOMEPORING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MIDEASTFOR COMMAND AFLOAT WOULD INVOLVE, MAKING SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NEED FOR SELF-MAINTENANCE VISITS.

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3. I THEN EXPLORED WITH MUTAWA THE POSSIBILITY OF SELF-MAINTENANCE VISITS TO KUWAIT BY COMIDEASTFOR SHIPS FOR ONE TO TWO WEEKS DURATION. KNOWING THAT THE KUWAITIS WOULD NOT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO A REQUEST TO TIE UP TO THE PIER, AS THEY HAVE NOT IN THE PAST FOR SHORTER FORMAL VISITS, I SUGGESTED THAT THE NAVY SHIPS COULD REMAIN AT

ANCHOR IN THE USUAL LOCATION OFF THE AHMADI PORT. I OBSERVED THAT THESE WOULD NOT BE FORMAL VISITS BUT WOULD PRESUMABLY INVOLVE LIBERTY PARTIES OF SAILORS IN MUFTI ASHORE TO SHOP, TO TO RESTAURANTS, ETC.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MUTAWA'S QUESTION AS TO THE NUMBER OF SUCH VISITS, I RESPONDED THAT I DID NOT KNOW, BUT THOUGHT THAT THIS COULD NUMBER AS FEW AS FOUR OR FIVE DURING THE YEAR. THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT COULD BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN US IF THE GOK WERE WILLING TO RECEIVE THESE SELF-MAINTENANCE VISITS.

5. WHILE MUTAWA'S REACTION TO THIS TENTATIVE REQUEST WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY POSITIVE, HE SEEMED TO REGARD IT AS REASONABLE AND SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE IT UP WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER, LETTING ME KNOW SUBSEQUENTLY WHAT THEIR REACTIONS WERE.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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